
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6278

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING METHODS AND REQUIRING THE USE OF BIODIESEL BLENDING METHODS FOR CERTAIN DIESEL FUELS.

SUMMARY

This bill bans the use of certain animal testing by manufacturers or contract testing facilities when certain alternative methods are available.

It also requires, by certain dates, all (1) diesel fuel sold or offered for sale in retail establishments from April to November to use increasing amounts of biodiesel and (2) diesel-operated vehicles, vessels, and construction equipment in the state fleet to use increasing percentages of biodiesel from April to November.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions on animal testing are effective October 1, 2025.

ANIMAL TESTING BAN

The bill prohibits entities that produce or test chemicals, ingredients, products formulations, or products (manufacturers and contract testing facilities) from conducting animal testing if there is an alternative testing method.

Under the bill, animal testing involves using animals to obtain information about a chemical or agent or the biological effect of exposure to them. An alternative test method is one that:

1. provides information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance than animal test methods;
2. has been identified by a validation body (an organization that facilitates development, validation, and regulatory acceptance of testing methods that reduce, refine, or replace the use of animals

in testing, such as the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods) and adopted by the relevant federal agency or program within an agency responsible for regulating the product or activity for which the test is being conducted; and

3. does not use animals, or, when there is no test method available that does not use animals, uses the fewest animals possible and reduces their suffering or stress to the greatest extent possible.

Exceptions

The bill's prohibition does not apply to animal testing for medical research into the (1) causes, diagnosis, treatment, control, or prevention of physical or mental diseases or (2) development of devices, drugs, biomedical products, and any products other than cosmetics regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But this exception does not apply to ingredients that (1) were formerly used in a drug; (2) were tested for drug use through animal testing to be characterized as safe; and (3) are being proposed for use in something that is not a biomedical product, medical device, or drug.

The bill does not prohibit testing methods that do not use animals (i.e. live vertebrate nonhuman animals).

BIODIESEL REQUIREMENTS

During the months of April to November, the bill requires retail diesel sold or offered for sale in the state to contain larger percentages of biodiesel, by these dates:

1. at least 5% by July 1, 2025;
2. at least 10% by July 1, 2027; and
3. at least 20% by July 1, 2029.

Similarly, from April to November, all diesel operated vehicles, vessels, and construction equipment that is part of the state fleet must use larger percentages of biodiesel, by these dates:

1. at least 5% by July 1, 2025, and
2. at least 20% by July 1, 2027.

Under the bill, “biodiesel” is fuel derived from vegetable oils or animal fats that is designated as B100 (i.e. 100% biodiesel without petroleum diesel mixed in) and meets the requirements of D6751 of the American Society for Testing and Materials (i.e. a biodiesel specification). This type of biodiesel is referred to as “pure biodiesel” and is typically used to create fuel blends.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 2 (03/28/2025)